

They are equally destructive as the European and Canadian Otters; and, as their depredations continue the whole year, their haunts being never frozen over during the period when Otters of the colder zones feed upon terrestrial animals,—their food is restricted to fish alone, and old Izaak Walton would no doubt have found additional cause to bestow hard names upon these “villanous vermin.”

The fur of the Canadian Otter forms an important article of commerce, and seven to eight thousand skins are annually imported by the Hudson’s Bay Company alone. The skin of the Otter of Guiana has, by competent judges, been pronounced equal in quality; and it might prove of advantage to hunt it for the sake of its skin. General Parr’s cavalry used them for pistol covers and foraging regimental caps.

The Arawak Indians of Guiana call it *Assiero*; the Caribisi, *Avaripuya*; the Tarumas, *Carangueh*; the Warraus, the smaller species *Etopu*, the larger *Itsha-keya*; the Macusis, the first *Dura*, the latter *Maparua*. In the colony they are known by the name of Water-dogs, bearing some resemblance to the canine race when swimming.

[To be continued.]

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

A Manual of the Land and Freshwater Shells of the British Islands, with Figures of each of the kinds. By William Turton, M.D. *A new Edition, thoroughly revised and much enlarged,* by John Edward Gray, F.R.S. London, 1840. 12mo.

Dr. Turton’s ‘Manual’ has long been known as a useful companion to the student of British land and freshwater shells, although in its original state it must be admitted to have been defective in much of that varied information which the more advanced state of our knowledge in this, as in other departments of natural history, imperatively demands. In the present edition Mr. Gray (on whose recent appointment to the Keepership of the Zoology in the national collection we have to congratulate the Museum and the country) has fully supplied the deficiency, and has produced a work of a very different and far higher character, which except in name, in a portion of the descriptive letter-press, and in the greater part of the figures accompanying it, may be regarded as entirely new.

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freshwater shells which have been erroneously, as he believes, introduced into the British list, with his reasons for their exclusion ; an outline of the geographical distribution of the native species, both with reference to other parts of the world and to the topographical divisions of our own country, accompanied by a tabular view ; notices of the localities which different species select ; an enumeration of the fossil species belonging to land and freshwater genera that have been hitherto discovered in Great Britain ; an historical review of the additions made to this department of our Fauna by each successive writer from Merret downwards ; and a list of the British and of the principal foreign works treating on the subject.

An "Artificial Table of the Genera" constructed for the use of the mere conchologist who confines his observations to the shell, is followed by some observations on the principal points to be attended to in the description of shells, founded on their relation to the animal, with reference to which alone they can be properly studied ; and we then arrive at the more strictly Systematic part of the work, the only part in which any portion of Dr. Turton's 'Manual' has been retained. But even here all that has been derived from the original work consists of the mere characters and descriptions of the shells, with a few occasional observations, all of which have undergone revision ; while the outline of the distribution of *Mollusca*, the characters of the classes, orders, families, and genera ; the descriptions of the animals ; the physiological and other notices accompanying these descriptions, &c. &c., which constitute the chief value of the work, have been added by Mr. Gray.

The number of species described amounts to 128, arranged under 38 genera ; and all of these with one exception (*Vertigo angustior*, which, as the author states, could not be procured) are figured in the plates, supplementary tables containing the more recently discovered species having been added to those previously contained in Dr. Turton's work. The original plates have also, it is stated, been revised, compared with the specimens, and corrected where necessary ; and enlarged details of some of the smaller species have been added. Woodcut illustrations representing the animals of the different families and of most of the genera, together with a few of the shells, have also been introduced in the form of vignettes ; and the work is got up in a handsome and creditable style.

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